

2021 TOPS BioBlitz Summary

Parks Advisory Board
November 18th, 2021
Gillian Rossi



What is a BioBlitz?



An event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. A bioblitz is also known as a biological inventory or biological census with a primary goal of obtaining an overall count of the plants, animals, fungi and other organisms that live in a place.



History



- The TOPS stewardship program started hosting bioblitzes in 2017 to get a snapshot of biodiversity within parks and open spaces around Colorado Springs.
- Typically, a scientists-only and a public BioBlitz are held each year.
- In 2020, the public BioBlitz was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



History



2021 BioBlitzes



- Scientist-Only BioBlitz
 - Corral Bluffs Open Space
 - June 5th & 6th, 2021
- Public BioBlitz
 - Stratton Open Space
 - August 27th-29th, 2021



Corral Bluffs Open Space BioBlitz



- June 5th & 6th, 2021
- Scientist-only
- 318 observations
- 218 species
- 14 observers



Stratton Open Space BioBlitz



- August 27th-29th, 2021
- Public Event
- 968 observations
- 403 species
- 22 observers



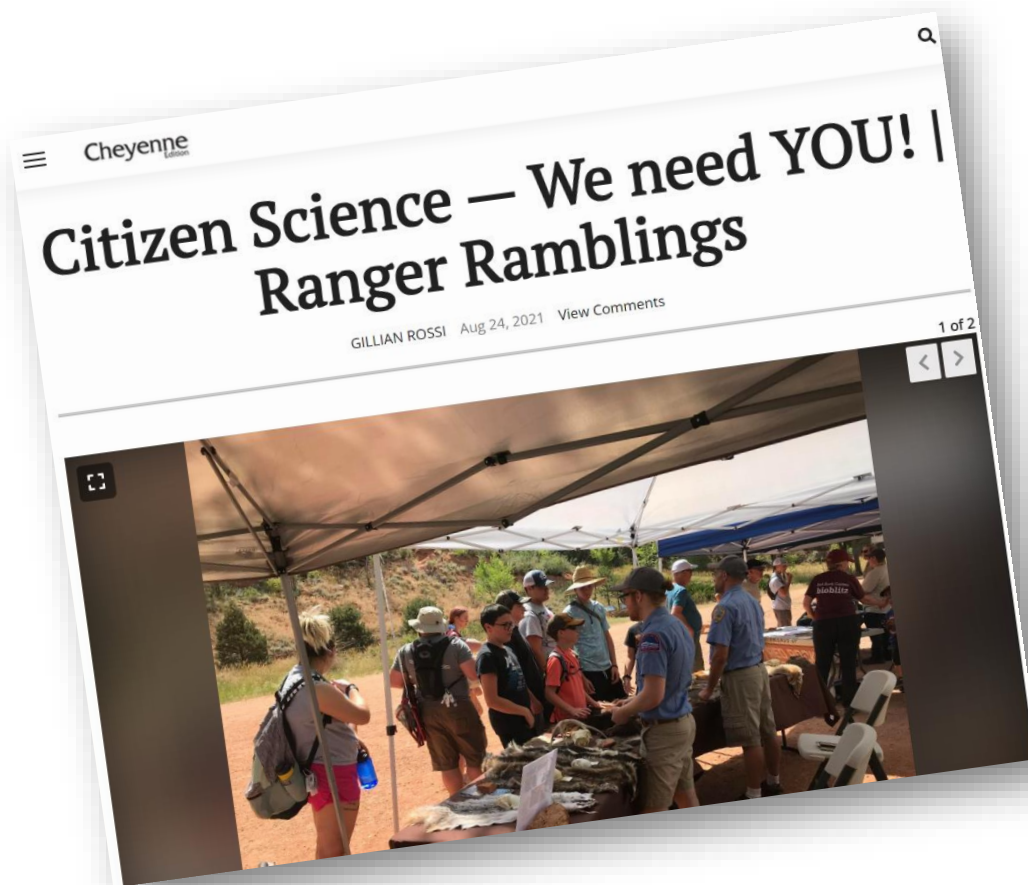
Stratton Open Space BioBlitz



- Tabling from science-based community partners



BioBlitz Promotion



Ranger Ramblings – Colorado Springs Gazette



PRCS Social Media Outlets

Stratton BioBlitz Partners



- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- PPLD Sustainability Team
- Leave No Trace
- USFS – Pikes Peak Ranger District
- Catamount Institute/Generation Wild
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute
- UCCS Biology Department
- Palmer Land Conservancy
- Wild Connections
- Fountain Creek Nature Center
- Friends of Stratton Open Space



Moving Forward



- Ignite public interest in citizen science
- Increase scientist-led program options
- Educate public on importance of staying on trails
- Use collected data in master planning process, trail reroutes, and other land management practices

TOPS Thanks You!



Moth Backlighting at Corral Bluffs Open Space